



## ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

A special Interest Group of the

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

Unit 6/48 May Street  
Bayswater 6053

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## CHARITABLE SOLDIERS

Ron Sutton

When researching our Enrolled Pensioner Guards, one cannot escape the numerous entries of our men subscribing to various Relief Funds. Some were for worthy causes overseas and one in particular; the Greenough Fire Relief Fund was closer to home. In assessing these relief funds for a possible story, one is drawn to the Florence Nightingale Fund. Our school days quickly identify Florence as the lady with the lamp however; what was the fund that bore her name?

First: let us revisit Florence's history. Florence was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1820 at the Villa La Columbaia in Florence, Italy. Her father, William Edward Nightingale (1794-1874), was a son of William Shore, a Sheffield banker and a man of means owning estates at Lea Hurst and Woodend in Derbyshire. When William inherited the estates from his father he assumed the name Peter Nightingale after his mother's uncle. Florence was born in Italy whilst her parents were travelling the country.

The early education of Florence and her sister were placed in the hands of governesses, later, their Cambridge educated father took over the responsibility

himself. Florence loved her lessons and had a natural ability for studying. Interestingly; it was mathematics that became her favoured subject, a discipline that was to stand her in good stead when dealing with statistics of war related casualties and illness.

At age 24 she began to visit hospitals both in England and overseas, a practice she continued for eleven years. These visits convinced her that nursing was a suitable vocation for ladies.

In March 1854, the Crimean War broke out and the reports of the sufferings of the sick and wounded in the English camps created anger in Britain. William Russell, *The Times* correspondent, described the terrible neglect of the wounded, and pointed to the differences between the facilities provided for British and French soldiers. He asked: "Are there no devoted women among us, able and willing to go forth to minister to the sick and suffering soldiers of the East in the hospitals of Scutari? Are none of our daughters of England, at this extreme hour of need, ready for such a work of mercy? Must we fall so far below the French in self-

sacrifice and devotedness?" (*The Times*, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1854).

Florence offered her services to the War Office on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1854 and was given plenary authority over all the nurses and the fullest assistance and co-operation from the medical staff. She was also promised "unlimited power of drawing on the government for whatever she thought requisite for the success of her mission"

Florence arrived at Scutari on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1854. The rest is history.

#### The Nightingale Fund

On the 2<sup>e</sup> November 1855, a public meeting was held at Willis's Rooms, in St James Street, London. A committee was formed with Sidney Herbert as honorary secretary; the Duke of Cambridge was chairman. It was held to give recognition to Florence for her work in the Crimea. Speeches were made highlighting the country's gratitude for the work Florence had carried out for the soldiers in the Crimea. Many people had given donations and it had been the first thought to present her with an item of gold or silver suitably inscribed, but they received so much money, they felt the setting up of a Fund for the training of nurses would be better, so began, the Nightingale Fund. The money was to be spent on nursing training in all aspects, hospitals, infirmaries, midwifery etc.

The Fund continued to canvass for donations and a large number of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards subscribed to the fund in January 1859 (*Perth Gazette* 21<sup>st</sup> January 1857). By 1859, Florence had 45,000 pounds sterling at her

disposal to set up a training school. She felt that the most suitable place for the training to take place was St Thomas's Hospital located in Southwark, London, Florence would be the Patroness and organizer. Her health was such at the time did not allow her an active part in the nurses' training or even to **take up the role of Superintendent**.

Mrs Wardroper became the first Matron, she was without formal training, and did not take up nursing until she was 42. It was only through her sheer force of character that she rose to become a Matron in 1853. Florence was impressed that Mrs Wardroper had previously raised standards and was willing to take on the task of running the new school of nursing. Certain wards of the hospital were to give instruction to probationers and that the Matron should also be Superintendent, under the control of the Council of the Fund. The Matron would have the power to select lady probationers, and to dismiss **them**. The first probationers (ten) arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1860.

Not everyone welcomed the new scheme for training women to become nurses. Many of the doctors had old fashion ideas. *"the day-nurse or ward-maid should perform for the ward the usual duties of a house maid as to cleaning and bedmaking"*. Florence's platform was that the probationers were being trained to become, not bedside nurses, but nursing managers. The reform of nursing went ahead in spite of the opposition.

The site for a new St Thomas Hospital had to be decided upon,

as the Charing Cross Railway Company wanted the hospital land to expand its South Eastern Rail system. Florence, well known for her articles on building hospitals and analysed the hospital records and found that the majority of patients came from the suburbs and she suggested Blackheath. The site finally selected was at the Albert Embankment in the London Borough of Lambeth. Florence was furious. The Nightingale Fund disliked the new site and also the hospital building plans. The main objections **were the nurse probationers' quarters**, the size and situation of the accommodation, the fact that nurse probationers should have their own dining rooms and dormitories and that the Matron's office should be in close access to the nurse probationers. Some of Florence's ideas were adopted prior to building. Queen Victoria opened the new hospital on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1871.

Over a period of 20 years with 604 lady probationers admitted to training only 357 completed a years training at a cost of 580 pounds sterling each. Women were often unfit for the duties they were to undertake. **A number of probationers were unable to keep up with writing in lectures**, many had difficulty during examinations, and it was beginning to show that the background of a probationer's education was becoming important. A women's role in society was also changing **with many other opportunities becoming available to them**. Many middle class educated **women were now becoming Nightingale nurses**.

Despite the initial difficulties, the Nightingale School of Nursing continued to be funded from the Florence Nightingale Fund and by

1882 Nightingale Fund nurses had become Matrons in many hospitals, including **Lucy Osburn who graduated in 1867 and became Lady Superintendent of the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary 1868-84 (later Sydney Hospital 1881) and she was the founder of Nightingale Nursing in Australia.**

## EPG COMMITTEE for 2007 - 2008

**As a result of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards' Annual General Meeting, the following people were elected:**

**CONVENOR - Jean McDonald  
DEPUTY CONVENOR - Ian Barnes  
TREASURER - Ron Sutton  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR — Beth Smith  
COMMITTEE —**

Jeanette Lee  
Carol Perriam  
Val Casey  
Marilyn Rogers

## GERALDTON TOUR 2007

**Remember to book soon for this fantastic offer - a David Meadowcroft fantastic tour of the Geraldton area.**

**Duration 4 days - Departs from WAGS on Monday 3 Sept, and returns on Thursday 6th Sept.**

**Phone Jean McDonald 9450 4304 to book for the Geraldton Tour.**

# CONVENOR'S REPORT

I am writing this report on Winter Solstice Day in June (named from the Latin — Junius the sixth) the shortest day of the year in our part of the world. General conversation in homes, local pubs and local radio is all about the weather and the lack of rain. Farmers are looking to the skies in an effort to determine whether to sow or not sow their crops but June is considered late to be seeding. Rain, especially at the right time has always been the lifeblood of the country, yet this June has not offered anywhere near the average rainfall expected. Western Australia's average rainfall to the end of June is 382 mm. This year so far the average is 175.8mm. June average is 178 mm — June this year to date (22<sup>nd</sup>) rainfall has been 9.2 mm.

It is of interest to make a comparison with June 1829 when the first white settlers arrived in the Swan River Colony (Western Australia). We in the Southern Hemisphere consider June to be mid winter, while June in the Northern Hemisphere, is mid summer. The settlers arriving from England on the "Parmelia" when they sailed into the waters off Fremantle, were greeted by the extremes of a Southern Hemisphere winter.

Twentyone years later and of more immediate interest to our Group was the arrival in June of the first ship conveying convicts and more than 50 Pensioner Guards to the Colony. Mid winter storms greeted the "Scindian" and their arrival was made even more extremely uncomfortable, because the "Scindian's" voyage proved to be faster than the ship carrying news

of the decision to send convicts to the Colony!

No prior arrangements had been made for their landing and the anchorage off Fremantle in June was to say the least primitive. There **was no prepared accommodation for the Pensioner Guards and their families.** However, temporary housing for the Guards was organised leaving the convicts on board for another two months.

It is a tribute to those intrepid ex-British soldiers for their training and resilience that so many of them remained and established their own dynasties in what became the state of Western Australia.

The month of June was therefore the obvious choice for celebrations based on the first settlement of European immigrants. Among those celebrations is the ceremony held in June at the Fremantle Prison.

As Convenor of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group, I have been privileged to attend **and witness many** descendants of Enrolled Pensioner Guards receive due recognition. **This June more than 40** descendants received their Certificates recording their name, ship and date of arrival of their EPG ancestor.

Our Pensioner Guard ancestors received a Certificate on leaving service in the British Army. If a soldier had simply left the Army of his own accord, he would have received a 'Discharge Certificate' — he would not therefore have been entitled to receive a Pension. However, in the case of Pensioner Guards, they would have received a **"Discharged to Pension**

Certificate." That difference is sometimes difficult to explain and is the reason why we endeavour, from **many sources**, to authenticate applications for one of our **Group's 'Certificate of Descendancy'**.

The interest in Pensioner Guards has extended to some members of the **Perth Volunteer Rifle and Artillery Brigade 1860**. They have researched and had made, copies of the uniforms of the various Regiments including the **Enrolled Pensioner Guard uniform** (see photo). After the Ceremony, the Brigade gave a noisy, colourful and well received demonstration of the various Rifles of the period.

We leave June behind us, and move into the seventh month July (named after Julius Caesar).

Our next General Meeting will be held in **Unit 4 of the W.A. Genealogical Society, 48 May Street, Bayswater** on **SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY AT 1 pm**. We don't mind if it rains!

We look forward to receiving our guest speaker, **Dr. Jenny Gregory**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Western Australia; President of the History Council of Western Australia and Editor in Chief of the forthcoming "Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia". Dr. Gregory will talk about the process and publication of this important work on the history of W.A.

*Jean McDonald*

## **DECENDANTS DAY**

### **4<sup>TH</sup> June 2007**

Our Convenor, Jean McDonald and member **Margaret Hickey** were official guests at the Descendants day ceremony where more than 40 descendants received certificates recording their name, ship and date of arrival of their EPG ancestor.



Jean McDonald with a voluntary guard at the Prison on Descendants Day.

War Office 4 piece 287 AJCP reel 1300

## Notice to Pensioners selected for Enrolment in the Force for service in the Colonies

*Jeanette Lee*

The Pensioners to whom this notice is issued must be prepared to leave their homes in about ten days from the receipt thereof, in order to proceed to the port of embarkation, according to such instructions as they may receive from the Staff Officer of their District.

They will be allowed to bring with them their working tools or their implements of their trades; but no household furniture, bedsteads, or any articles of that description, as the expense of carriage would, if brought from a distance, exceed their value. Arrangements have been made, by which, on their arrival at Tilbury Fort, they can be supplied with whatever is necessary for the voyage to be paid for by a stoppage out of their pay or pension. They are recommended to bring with them all kinds of clothing, particularly shirting, stockings, and flannels; also blankets, counterpanes, and sheets, if nearly new; but they must distinctly understand that nothing of this description can be received at the Embarkment Depot, unless it has been recently washed, is perfectly clean, and in good repair, and with a view to prevent their bringing useless or dirty articles along with them, their baggage is to be examined before they leave the District. If insufficiently provided with clothing, they will be supplied from a store in London, and the price deducted as above from pay or pension.

they may possess, but they should make no purchases of that description till they reach the port of embarkation. No glass, crockery, or other articles liable to breakage can be permitted unless carefully packed. Any boxes which are brought must be in good repair. Those who have not sufficient to fill a box, are recommended to bring their effects in a strong canvas bag, similar to what is used for their regimental clothing but of larger size, which will afterwards be useful on board for holding their dirty linen; and any Pensioner having a box should also be provided with a bag of this kind to contain the clothing for immediate use, as all boxes must be kept in the hold.

Those candidates who belong to the Enrolled Force must, before leaving the District, give over the Local Company clothing for the use of their successors; but on their arrival at the Embarkation Depot they will be supplied with a new suit of uniform and equipments.

The wives and children of Pensioners who are able to knit, sew, or exercise any useful employment which can be carried on during the voyage, should bring with them the necessary implements for this purpose: and supplies of linen, cotton, and worsted will be put on board to furnish occupation for them. Those who had been accustomed to earn their livelihood by washing may bring smoothing irons, and a small washing tub, in which case a part

of their effects may be packed therein, and secured by a canvas cover.

Every Pensioner must distinctly understand that any act of drunkenness or gross misconduct on his part prior to embarkment, will be punished by his being struck off the Embarkment List, in which case all the expenses incurred by the public in bringing him and his family from their residence will be deducted from his pension.

Any similar act of misconduct on the part of his wife, or any member of his family, will also lead to their being left behind, as it is not the intention of **Her Majesty's Government to extend the advantages of the present arrangements to any who show themselves unworthy of it.**

Every married Pensioner is required before leaving his District to sign a declaration that if any disease should be found to exist which renders his wife, or any member of his family, unfit to embark, he will engage to send them back to his District at his own expense. It is also necessary that the children should be vaccinated, if not already done, as otherwise they cannot be received on shipboard.

## **DRUMS, FYFES AND BUGLES**

*Jean McDonald*

On 18th July 1854, the Pensioner Band (by permission) performed during the evening program of

Amateur Theatricals at the Court House, Perth.

His Excellency the Governor was the Patron of the presentation which included Perth identities, Mr. Sholl, Mr. Clifton, Mr. Ducane, Mr. Irvine and there were three different items on the Programme with **the Pensioner Band** performing during the evening.

Correspondence between Captain Bruce and the War Office in April 1852, states—

"With reference to that part of your letter of the 12 Nov 1851 in which you state that **you consider it to be advantageous to the Pensioner Force to have a few instruments adapted to parade purposes; I am (advised) by the S A W to acquaint you, that as it appears you are already in possession of one drum and two fifes the Ordnance Dept has been requested to supply you with the instruments named in the margin, (3 drums, 2 fifes, 2 bugles with drum with drum sholly carriages & bugle strings) together with a Bass Drum, if there be one in store.**

These with the instruments you **have now, are** considered sufficient for four Companies of Pensioners — a drum and fife being usually assigned to each company with one bugle for every two companies.

It is expected that these instruments will be forwarded by the 'William Jardine' **and will be**

delivered to you by Capt. Foss on his arrival in Western Australia".

*[W04 Reel 1301 p2261*

There is a photograph of the Band with a parade of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in 1887 in Barrack Street, Perth with the Perth Town Hall in the background. *[W.A. Newspapers no. 1059]*

It is possible the Pensioner Band would lead Church Parade on Sunday morning and there is no doubt the Band would have been called out on official occasions.

However, information on individual members of the Band at any one time is not readily available.

There are some military records which show age and occupation on enlistment for the British Army such as 'aged 16, labourer, aged 17 shoemaker; aged 20 weaver, aged 16 drummer, aged 17 bugler'. However, there is little evidence of ex-soldiers having been part of a formal 'Pensioner Band'.

Frank Broomhall in his book "The Veterans" records an incident in 1886 —

"When the Volunteer Band was given permission to store their instruments in a room at No 1 Barracks, they also began to use the room for band practice.

Not unnaturally, sentries of the Guard there, who could not obtain sleep only at staggered hours, objected to the noise.

Asked to desist, however, the Volunteer bandmaster refused, referred Sergt. Major McCarthy, who was in charge of the Guard, to Captain Humble of the Fremantle Volunteers, and

continued his practice until 9.20 p.m.

The dispute was settled amicably by exchanges between Captain Smith and Captain Phillips, commanding officers of the Enrolled Guard and the Volunteers respectively, Bandmaster Fay being admonished and told that alternative accommodation for the band practices was available at the Old Court House, Arthurs Head. *[Broomhall pill] [Reference A144 9 June 1886]*

The Pensioner Guard Group would be most interested in any information on individual members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force who played at any time in the band. Please contact the Editor or Convenor.

*Wear a copy of the badge  
your ancestor wore.*

### **EPG BADGES**



**\$10.00 from an EPG General Meeting or \$12.00 inc. postage & handling.**

## A BOY'S COURAGE

I write to you as to a boy's bravery and faithfulness.

**David Hacket**, a lad of 13, the **son of a pensioner** (deceased), was hut keeper to the Messrs. Clarkson at their eastern station. On Hi<sup>tn</sup>, July last, when alone at the hut, four natives attacked him, his gun snapped but he knocked down one with the stock; they then threw him down and severely beat him (he still bears the marks), and three of them would have killed him but the fourth prevented them. On the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> while he and poor Edward Clarkson were at supper, six spears were thrown at them, one wounding the latter mortally, and one wounding Hacket slightly in the arm. Hacket seized his gun and the natives ran away. The boy got his wounded master into the hut, and tended him truly and kindly for six days, reading to him and praying with him, and although alone and not knowing when the savages would return (they did return once and he drove them off with his gun), never swerving from his watch and tending whilst life remained; and even after poor Edward Clarkson died Hacket shewed no fear, he covered up the body, secured the hut (although natives returned after he left and cleared it of everything including powder, caps, shot, &c. (they had previously stolen a gun), and started on his solitary and dangerous journey of over one hundred miles through the bush, accomplishing the journey in three days.

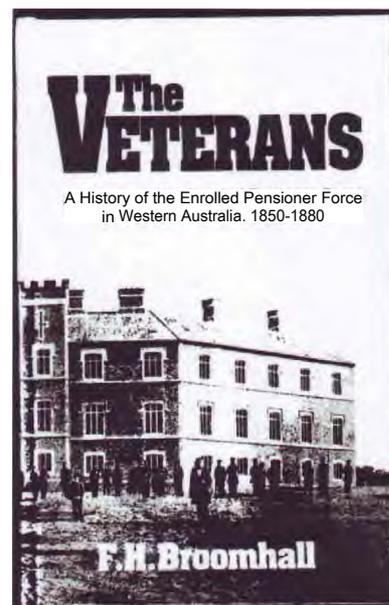
Surely this was pure courage.

*A subscription was raised for Hacket, the amount to be paid into the Savings' Bank in the name of a Trustee until the lad became of age.*

**Rica Erickson's account of this incident in "Old Toodyay and Newcastle"** states that David's father having died on the station was buried at 'Nardie'. She goes on to say that during the six days that passed before he died, the dying man instructed the lad how to read the stars at night pointing out which were to be his guides in leading him to Eaton's station at Quelquelling. This was the nearest outpost to civilization, and he had to travel at night because the Aborigines feared the dark.

### EPG Reference

The standard reference on the  
Enrolled Pensioner Guard is  
available from the EPG Special  
Interest Group



This book by F. H. Broomhall is a must for all who are interested in the history of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australian between 1850 —1880.

Price \$45.00 plus postage.

**2007  
GENERAL MEETINGS  
1:00pm- Unit 4 WAGS**

**JULY                      Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**OCTOBER                Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**JULY MEETING  
Saturday 21 July**

**1.00pm in Unit 4, May St, Bayswater.**

Come and listen to:

**Dr. Jenny Gregory**

who will speak about the

***Historical Encyclopedia Of Western  
Australia***

Enrolled Pensioner Guard SIG  
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Unit 6/48 May Street  
Bayswater WA 6053

**Proposed tour to Geraldton 3 — 6<sup>th</sup> September**



Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1860 (W.A. Museum)